



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Stipends Available for Organizations to Advance the Nature: Accessible for All Campaign

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is providing stipends of up to \$10,000 each to nonprofit organizations for work that advances the Nature: Accessible for All Campaign. We are inviting nonprofits to apply for a stipend using the form below. Nonprofits already participating in the campaign and those not yet involved are both eligible to apply. A recipient of an initial stipend will be eligible to apply for up to one additional stipend upon demonstrating good progress on carrying out a sound proposal. For an exceptional project, PPA will consider a larger stipend request. PPA expects to award a total of approximately \$120,000 in stipends to nonprofit organizations.

The Nature: Accessible for All Campaign

This campaign is a collaborative effort by individuals, public agencies and nonprofits to ensure that people with disabilities, their families and allies can and do enjoy New Jersey's extraordinary natural places. We aim to increase the public's awareness that accessible nature trails and sites exist and are valuable to the quality of life; to improve the accessibility of trails and natural sites; and to provide reliable information about these facilities so people can plan successful expeditions into our natural areas.

It is a core value of the campaign that voices from the disability community drive the design and implementation of the campaign's strategies and activities. We encourage collaborative projects that address the needs arising from various forms of disability.

The campaign's Action Plan and Statement of First Principles are attached below.

Purpose of the Stipends and Eligible Activities

The stipends are intended to support nonprofit organizations in undertaking any activities that advance the mission of the campaign described above. The following are examples of such activities, but this list is not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive:

- Obtain training for staff and volunteers to design and lead inclusive field trips.
- Compensate trip leaders who create and lead inclusive field trips.
- Evaluate trails and other nature facilities for inclusion in the accessnaturenj.org map using an evaluation process PPA has developed, and/or testing and providing ideas for improving or expanding the evaluation process.
- Design and/or carry out improvements to trails and other facilities to improve accessibility.

- Obtain assistive equipment for use by participants in inclusive field trips.
- Create video, photography and narratives that promote inclusive nature recreation and/or understanding of the challenges people with disabilities and their allies face in enjoying natural places.

A stipend can support or expand an existing program of the organization or help launch a new project.

Eligible Organizations

Any nonprofit organization that is either a 501(c)3 organization or has an established relationship with a fiscal sponsor is eligible to apply. Applicants may be staff or volunteer organizations but must have some type of formal existence. If you have any questions about eligibility, please email Sean Kane Holland at sean@pinelandsalliance.org.

Requirements for Recipients

Stipend recipients will be required to enter a Memorandum of Agreement with PPA that sets out the mutual responsibilities of the recipient and PPA. Stipends will be provided in two equal payments, one upon signing the MOA and one at the completion of the project, unless there is a specific need for a different payment schedule.

We understand that these are modest stipends, and we do not want to impose unreasonable burdens on recipients. The key responsibilities of recipients will be:

1. Carry out the activities proposed for funding within a term of one year from receipt of the funds, unless a different time period is agreed.
2. Discuss with PPA ways to invite and involve other campaign participants in support of the project.
3. Provide at least one blog post about the funded effort, in text or short video, that the Campaign and other organizations can distribute through social media.
4. Participate in at least three online meetings of the Access Nature Forum. Information on the Forum can be found at <https://pinelandsalliance.org/the-pinelands-is-for-everyone/access-nature-forum/>.
5. Participate in at least three meetings of the Steering Committee or a Working Group of the campaign, which all meet via Zoom. Working Groups currently are: Regulatory Reforms; Inclusive Nature-Based Programming; Document and Evaluate Facilities, Trails and Scenic Sites; and Engagement and Communications.
6. Document progress using simple measures, metrics, graphics and/or images appropriate to the funded project.
7. Provide a summary quarterly email update to PPA on the work being performed.

8. Provide a final report at the end of the year, including any measures, metrics, graphics or images created to document the project. The report will be submitted via email.

Application Due Date

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through May 31, 2025, or until available stipends are all distributed.

Evaluation of Proposals

PPA, in consultation with the Campaign Steering Committee, will evaluate proposals on a rolling basis using these criteria:

1. Does the proposed project advance the goals of the Campaign as set out above and in the Action Plan? This is required.
2. Does the proposed project embody the values set out in the Core Principles of the Campaign, including particularly the inclusion of people with disabilities in the planning or execution of the project? This is required.
3. Does the applicant expect this project to change policies of the applicant or other agencies going forward in ways that support equitable enjoyment of nature? This is a positive.
4. Does the applicant propose to collaborate with others? This is a positive.
5. Will the project address multiple forms of disability? This is a positive.
6. Does the project also address any intersecting equity goals, such as benefiting residents of underserved communities? This is a positive.
7. Does the applicant plan to leverage additional funding or resources with the grant? This is a positive.
8. If the project requires permission of a landowner (such as for a trail improvement), does the applicant have that permission? This is required, if relevant.

How To Apply

Send Sean Kane Holland at PPA a Word or Acrobat document that answers the following questions. Sean's email address is sean@pinelandsalliance.org. Brevity is a virtue here, and we can follow up with any questions we may have.

1. Name, mailing address, and website or social media page (where one exists) of the organization.
2. Name, title and email address of the individual who will be responsible for the project and meeting the obligations of the recipient.

3. Title of the project or program, if there is one.
4. Explanation and documentation of the organization's legal status (e.g., a 501(c)3 charity), leadership structure, and date of founding.
5. Description of the organization's mission and current activities (about 250 words or shorter).
6. Description of the activity proposed for funding (about 500 words or shorter).
7. Statement of what the activity aims to accomplish to make nature accessible for people with disabilities (about 250 words or shorter).
8. Explanation of how the project will engage and involve people with disabilities (about 250 words or shorter).
9. Explanation of how the stipend will be spent (e.g., personnel costs, equipment, etc.)
10. Documentation of landowner permission, if relevant, such as a letter from or agreement with the landowner.
11. Statement of who will carry out the activity (about 100 words or less).

Please direct any questions to Sean at the email address above.